

“The willingness of America’s veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our lasting gratitude.” — Jeff Miller —

Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

Becket, Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington,
Middlefield, Montgomery, Otis, Plainfield, Russell, Sandisfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington

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HILLTOWNS

Memorial Day ceremonies in the hills

By Peter Spotts

After last year saw many Memorial Day parades and ceremonies cancelled or held virtually, the honoring of the nation's fallen heroes is returning in person across the hilltowns on Monday, May 31.

Ceremonies take place across the hilltowns all morning beginning at 8 a.m. in Huntington with the parade assembling before marching to the town green and 8:30 a.m. in Worthington where Cummington American Legion Post 304 holds its first of six ceremonies.

Residents are encouraged to come pay their respects to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice serving their country. Ceremonies and parades are outside, but people should wear masks and follow social distancing protocols. The following ceremonies will take

CEREMONIES, page 2



MAY FLOWERS

Joann and Carl Kelton who represent the Huntington Garden Club worked hard this weekend sprucing up the downtown area. New plants, flowers, and bark mulch were added around the gazebo and town buildings on Saturday, May 22, and Sunday, May 23.



OTIS

Church future debated on Annual Town Meeting floor



From left; Jill Morteza, Therese Gould, Gary Thomas, Larry Southard, Selectman William Hiller, Clerk Brandi Page, Jeremiah Pollard, and Moderator Blake Middleton set up at the front of the Annual Town Meeting.

Photos by Shelby Macri



Voters raise bright yellow cards to vote on an article during Annual Town Meeting on May 18.

By Shelby Macri

OTIS — A citizen petition for the St. Paul’s church was the most discussed topic at Annual Town Meeting on May 18.

The citizen petition asked for the town to transfer ownership of the church to the Otis Preservation Trust to allow for renovations without inherent municipal ownership; if the OPT doesn’t accept the church the town reserves the right to find other entities to transfer the church. The OPT had stated they won’t accept the property as they are unable to do so at this time. The trust was newly created for the church and they’d need more time to prepare for this.

Board of Selectmen Chair William Hiller submitted this petition and explained why on the floor of ATM, saying

it’d be at least \$600,000 to fix the church and he thought that money would be available through grants.

“Ever since we’ve owned it, for two years there hasn’t been a decision on how to fix a single board. There’s always a back and forth for just one repair,” Hiller said. “I don’t want tax money paying for the church. I don’t think it should be town owned, it should go to a non-profit.”

In regard to the petition, newly elected President of the OPT Lynne Geane explained a few of the projects the trust is working on. Geane said when the church became torn property, the Selectboard realized there wasn’t any funds for the needed repairs; they asked the Historical Commission to raise money. The OPT was

MEETING, page 3

CUMMINGTON

Warrant focus on essentials

By Peter Spotts

Annual Town Meeting will convene next Friday, June 4, and the town has kept the warrant to essential budget, capital, and town operation items.

The 2021 warrant has three capital expenses. Article 12 asks for \$2,500 for one set of turnout gear for the Fire Department and \$2,500 for a portable radio for the department.

Article 13 is a request of \$10,000 to continue a cemetery project the town began in the past, but had to put on hold last year due to COVID-19.

WARRANT, page 11

CHESTER

Bromley road project resumes

By Shelby Macri

Another section of the ongoing Bromley Road project began this week as the milling of the road started Monday, May 24.

The project was started before Town Administrator Kathe Warden entered the office, which was two years ago now. Former Highway Department Superintendent Corey Sparks started the project with Chapter 90 funds. Selectboard Chair Barbara Huntoon said that different projects are chosen every year and Sparks started the Bromley Road project the final year he was with the Highway Department.

PROJECT, page 6

WILLIAMSBURG

ATM features two bylaw changes

By Peter Spotts

The Planning Board is bringing two sets of zoning bylaw amendments before town voters for Annual Town Meeting on Monday, June 7.

The first change is an amendment to the Accessory Apartments bylaw, which is an expansion of the language to include the detached accessory apartments. This is in response to discussion on ATM a couple

BYLAW, page 12



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HILTTOWNS

CEREMONIES

place on Monday, May 31.

Blandford

The town's annual Memorial Day observations and the Memorial Day parade will be Monday, May 31.

The parade will start promptly at 11:30 a.m. at the Blandford town offices. All participants should be at the town offices no later than 11 a.m. All town veterans are invited to march.

The parade will proceed to Main Street then up the hill to Veterans' Park at Town Commons, Emo will conduct the services honoring those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for the country.

Kyle Mangini will perform patriotic music and Jon Berman will perform the National Anthem Elementary school students will read essays written to commemorate Memorial Day.

The Blandford Historical Society will be open from 10:30 a.m. to noon and will have a special Veterans display.

The annual town picnic will follow immediately in Watson Park. The Recreation Committee is organizing the event.

Becket

The town will hold a ceremony at 11 a.m. at the Veteran's park in the North Becket village on Monday, May 31.

Chester

Chester will hold a Memorial Day ceremony and parade on Monday, May 31, beginning at 9 a.m. at Town Hall.

The town is seeking all interested veterans who would like to march or be in the color guard. For more information, please contact Memorial Day Committee member Barbara Huntoon at 413-207-1104.

Chesterfield

Cummington American Legion Post 304 will hold a service at 11 a.m. at Veteran's Park. The Post welcomes all



area veterans to join the event. All attendees are asked to observe state COVID-19 masking and social distancing regulations in effect at that time. Contact Post 304 Commander Conrad Liebenow at 413-634-5353 for more information.

Cummington

Cummington American Legion Post 304 will hold a service at 9 a.m. at West Cummington Cemetery and at 9:30 a.m. at the Community House Memorial. The Post welcomes all area veterans to join the event. All attendees are asked to observe state COVID-19 masking and social distancing regulations in effect at that time. Contact Post 304 Commander Conrad Liebenow at 413-634-5353 for more information.

Goshen

Cummington American Legion Post 304 will hold a service at 10 a.m. at Goshen Cemetery. The Post welcomes all area veterans to join the event. All attendees are asked to observe state COVID-19 masking and social distancing regulations in effect at that time. Contact Post 304 Commander Conrad Liebenow at 413-634-5353 for more information.

634-5353 for more information.

Huntington

The Town of Huntington will be having a Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 31.

The parade will assemble at Pettis Field at 8 a.m. and march to the gazebo on the Town Green for a ceremony. Marchers and spectators are required to follow all current state COVID-19 guidelines.

Veterans and other groups who are interested in marching are asked to call Lori Belhumeur at 413-667-3169 by Wednesday, May 26.

Plainfield

Cummington American Legion Post 304 will hold a service at noon at Hilltop Cemetery. The Post welcomes all area veterans to join the event. All attendees are asked to observe state COVID-19

masking and social distancing regulations in effect at that time. Contact Post 304 Commander Conrad Liebenow at 413-634-5353 for more information.

Williamsburg

The town Memorial Day parade will assemble at 12:30 p.m. at the Williamsburg Fire Station and depart at 1 p.m. west on North Main Street and proceed to Veteran's Memorial Park. A ceremony will be held including the National Anthem performed by Megan Cone and Kelsey Chandler, the placing of the wreath at the memorial, a gun salute, taps, and guest speaker Mark Frost, a retired Master Sergeant from the United States Army Reserve.

Parade participants include American Legion Post 236, American Legion Riders 236, the Board of Selectmen, Police Department, Fire Department, Boy and Girl Scout troops, Brownies, the Hampshire Lodge of Free Masons, and local veterans.

Cemetery ceremonies will take place at American Legion Post 236 at 8:30 a.m., Mountain Street at 9:30 a.m., Saint Mary's at 10 a.m., High Street at 10:30 a.m., Old Village Hill at 11 a.m., and Village Hill at 11:15 a.m.

Worthington

Cummington American Legion Post 304 will hold a service at 8:30 a.m. at the memorial across from Town Hall. The Post welcomes all area veterans to join the event. All attendees are asked to observe state COVID-19 masking and social distancing regulations in effect at that time. Contact Post 304 Commander Conrad Liebenow at 413-634-5353 for more information.

VOICES OF SUPPORT



From left, Russell Police Department Sergeant Sean Shattuck, Massachusetts State Police Trooper John Stec, Chester-Blandford Police Chief Tammy Weidhaas, and retired Chester Police Department Officer Todd Allman shares her message for survivors of domestic violence as part of the Southern Hilltowns Domestic Violence Task Force's Hilltown Voice's campaign to raise awareness to prevent and end domestic violence. Hilltown Safety at Home domestic violence advocacy services can be reached at 413-667-2203 or 413-693-9977. Ten to Ten Helpline for people at risk of harming their partner or for those worried someone they know is harming their partner can be reached at 877-898-3411.

Submitted photo

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OTIS

MEETING

created specifically for the funds needed for repairs, and in the 10 months they've been working they've raised \$95,000.

"We're reviewing grant after grant after grant, looking for one that can help, we've written two grants and sent one out just yesterday and one grant is moving forward," Geane said "We'd like to continue what we've been doing, please."

Geane also pointed out that due to COVID-19 pandemic, it's been harder than usual to get things going, but they're still working on grants and raising money. Resident Thom Garvey also spoke in favor of the Historical Commission and OPT for the work they've been doing, saying that if given the chance the money can be raised. Garvey also said he is a real estate agent, the church asked him to list it and he did, but he wouldn't list it during the meeting.

"I understand its importance to our history today, I wouldn't recommend selling it," Garvey said. "It's complicated stuff no doubt about it, they're going above and beyond to raise money." Additionally, when he sold it years ago, the best offer was for \$50,000 and he doesn't think it'd sell for that much now.

Speaking to the history of the church, it houses a Paul Revere bell and Revere himself sat in the church's pulpit; this church has historical value for the town and many spoke to this fact. Many residents were concerned about losing another historical landmark if the town no longer owned the church, they don't want to lose historical landmarks in a town that has so much history. Planning Board member Jenny Daily also spoke in support of the church, saying it takes a lot to raise over \$100,000 especially in a pandemic and it took

years of legal fees to be able to get the property.

Daily said if they want to look into the church going to a non-profit then they need to take the time to think about that decision and how to go about it. She pointed out that it only takes 10 signatures for a citizen petition to be added.

"This came out of the blue, no time to think about it or consider it. It was put in on the last day to submit," Daily said. "This can't be prepared in two weeks, maybe in five years, but not in two weeks. Now's not the time for this; I urge you not to pass this."

After the moderator Blake Middleton announced the last question, the petition was put to a vote and failed with 72 opposed and 54 in favor.

The church was a popular topic with another article being discussed, considering having the use of St. Paul's Church as a Community Center. Residents wondered what the use of a Community Center would be compared to the current Recreational Center. Resident Geoffrey Pigman explained that the Community Center title would be used in the broadest of terms and it's not meant to replicate the Recreation Center in any way. A frontline fundraiser Ellen Beck explained that having the church named as a Community Center could help with getting the building some grants. Though she mentioned that all grants have different needs, foundations, and criteria's when people are applying for them.

This article also failed and while the church won't be announced as a Community Center, it'll stay in the town's possession so the Historical Commission and OPT can continue to raise money for repairs.

Submissions are always welcome.

Send us your engagement, wedding, baby, anniversary and graduation news and photos.

Country Journal

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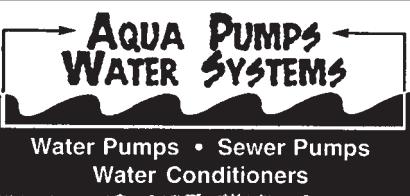
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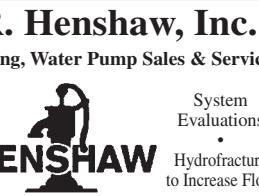

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HUNTINGTON

Starfires host Hilltown Night June 27

at Bullens Field 135 King St Ext., in Westfield.

The Recreation Committee is also finalizing plans for their summer camp planned to begin around mid-July. Camp will be different from past years as planning was made with Covid restrictions and will be a mix of virtual and in person events. Stay tuned for more details.

Any information on either event can be sent to recreation@huntingtonma.us.

NORWICH HILL

The First Congregational Church of Huntington reminds everyone even though our physical doors are closed until further notice, we are most definitely open for worship, praise, ministry, and fellowship. We are an Open and Affirming Church inviting, welcoming, and affirming everyone — seekers, believers, and wonderers alike — on their journey of faith, to join in 10 a.m. Zoom Sunday worship.

Please use the phone numbers and email address provided to stay in touch or to contact the pastor. You are also invited to find us on Facebook at "Norwich Hill" for updates, information, and spiritual encouragement. For more information, please contact 413-667-3935 or 860-798-7771 or firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com.

Concert series returns Thursday, July 15

HUNTINGTON — The Huntington Summer Music series will return this summer on the Huntington town green.

Concerts will begin Thursday, July 15, and run through Thursday, Aug. 19,

MIDDLEFIELD

MIDDLEFIELD SENIOR CENTER

Lunch is served at the Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, Middlefield, each Wednesday at noon.

A \$3 donation is suggested. Reservations should be made, and meal choice stated, by calling and leaving a message at 413-623-9990 the Monday

before. Pick-up and delivery are available.

The menu on Wednesday, June 2, is tender baked cod loin with bread topping and tartar sauce, steamed broccoli, brown rice, rye bread, and chocolate pudding with whipped topping.

OPINION

EDITORIAL

Stand in solemn solidarity this Memorial Day

From stone walls in New York and fields in Pennsylvania, barbed wire-laden trenches in Europe to remote volcanic islands of the Pacific, jungles in Vietnam to the deserts of Iraq and Afghanistan, brave men and women have fought and died for the stars and stripes, and the ideals it represents.

Many weren't much older than those preparing to graduate soon from Ware Junior Senior High School when they answered the Lexington Alarm from their fields, shops and homes when they answered their country's call when conscripted for active duty service. Some never came home.

While many consider Memorial Day weekend the unofficial start of summer, rife with cookouts, the openings of pools and exuberant celebration, it is important to take a moment to remember the meaning of the holiday in the first place.

Memorial Day, unlike the Fourth of July, reminds the nation of those lost in defense of the nation's freedoms. Whether it's the freedom to assemble and speak out against a government policy, to publish a contrary opinion or to worship in the manner of one's choosing, we all owe a debt of gratitude to those men and women who never left the battlefield.

The holiday has its roots in the aftermath of the American Civil War, originally known as Decoration Day, when Union veterans adorned the graves of fallen soldiers with flowers. Similar observances were held for Confederate soldiers. After World War I, the holiday was expanded to honor all of the nation's war dead, but wouldn't become a national holiday until 1971.

This Memorial Day, when folks assemble across the hilltown cemeteries or town greens, or when they march in parades in Blandford, Huntington and Williamsburg, the list of the town's soldiers from the Civil War to Vietnam are inscribed on stone monuments as a reminder to the ultimate cost of freedom.

While COVID-19 kept public remembrances from being held last year, we are lucky to be able to gather and remember those we have lost and thank them for their service and their sacrifice. And for those who are not yet comfortable doing so, they can be remembered privately with the same gratitude.

The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation.

Now it is as important as ever that we should spread the word of their service and act to advocate for critical benefits for those who make it home. We should both encourage and listen to the stories of veterans, whatever they choose to tell. And we should do this every day so as not to forget their sacrifices.



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Corrections will be printed in the same section where the error originally occurred.



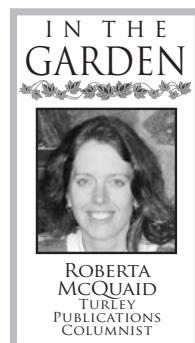
GUEST COLUMN

Tomato planting 101

With the quintessential frost-free target date of Memorial Day just days away, I think it's the perfect time to encourage folks to give gardening a try. Growing tomatoes is a good place to start. First, because growing them is relatively easy and secondly, because you will be delighted with a great return for your investment of a little money and some time. No supermarket tomato could ever compare to one that is homegrown and sun-ripened.

First of all, head to the local nursery and select a plant. There are many varieties to choose from. Do you prefer slicing tomatoes, cherry or pear-shaped for salads, or meaty paste types? If you plan on growing your tomato in a patio container, it may be best to settle on a determinate or bush type that will require next to no staking and will remain tidy in its pot.

Find a spot in your yard that gets at least six hours of sun a day. Less than that and you will have more leaves than fruit. If necessary, remove existing sod to accommodate your plant(s). Tomatoes should be spaced about 18 inches to two feet away from one another. For one plant prepare a section two feet wide by two feet deep. Now, go ahead and dig a fairly deep hole. How deep depends on



the size of your transplant. Since tomatoes have the ability to form roots along their stem, plan on burying one-half to three-quarters of the stem in addition to the root ball. Don't worry; although this planting depth sounds extreme, it will be better for the plant in the long run. In my experience, a cup or two of well-rotted manure or aged compost mixed with the soil in the bottom of the planting hole along with a sprinkling of balanced organic fertilizer is all the food your tomatoes will need during the growing season.

If you plan on growing your tomato in a container, choose one that is at least a foot wide and deeper if possible. Fill it 50/50 with potting soil and garden loam or compost. The blend will be lightweight and nutritious.

Tomatoes need support in the form of a cage or tall bamboo stakes wrapped with twine at regular intervals. Although your transplants may seem puny now, go ahead and install the supports at planting time. Once planting is complete be sure to give them a hearty drink. Continue to water every other day for the first week or so if

GARDEN, page 5



May 16 to May 31

By John Grimaldi and David Bruce Smith

The Lincoln-Douglas debates pushed the possibility of a Lincoln presidency into inevitability. Positioned against Senator Stephen Douglas of Illinois in a sequence of debates during re-election year, Douglas insisted the legality of slavery should be determined by the states and territories. Lincoln argued for its abolition.

Douglas kept his seat and Lincoln lost the argument, but his rhetoric raised his profile, and that of the unshaped Republican party.

Two years later, on May 18, 1860, Lincoln was the party's nominee for the presidential election. He faced off with Douglas; Southern Democrat John C.

HISTORY MATTERS

Breckinridge; and Constitutional Union candidate John Bell. Lincoln won 40% of the vote and became the first Republican President of the United States.

It was a victory that activated the secession of southern states, the creation of the Confederacy, and the Civil War.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends "Lincoln and Douglas: The Debates that Defined America" by Allen C. Guelzo.

Spirit of St. Louis

At 7:52 in the morning of May 20, 1927, Charles Lindbergh, lifted off in his monoplane, "The Spirit of St. Louis", from

HISTORY, page 5

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 500 words or less in length. We require letter writers to include his or her name, town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

EDITOR
Peter Spotts
pspots@turley.com

STAFF WRITER
Shelby Macri
[smaci@turley.com](mailto:smacri@turley.com)

ADVERTISING SALES
John Baskin
jbaskin@turley.com

SOCIAL MEDIA
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OPINION

HILLTOWN HISTORY

Honoring the Fallen

By Deborah Daniels

How many of you have placed pots of geraniums on the graves of your relatives on Memorial Day? It was a tradition right, remember the dead. Well James Melvin couldn't forget the dead. That is why 45 years after the death of his oldest brother he commissioned Daniel Chester French to create a monument to his three brothers who died in the Civil War.

Traveling from Boston to Concord, Mass., 88 aging veterans came in special railroad cars to attend the dedication ceremony at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery for their fallen brothers in 1909. All 88 men had fought in the same regiment as the Melvin brothers. And what a monument it was! The larger-than-life size marble sculpture is of the angel "Victory" shrouded in an American flag, holding a laurel branch in her upraised left hand and looking down sadly at three bronze plaques carved with flintlock rifles and the names of the 3 brothers. There were some 600,000 lives lost fighting the Civil War.

Asa Melvin, the oldest brother, enlisted in April 1861 at the start of the war, served his three-month term and re-enlisted. Abraham Lincoln called for 75,000 more army volunteers to come to the aid of the country. Asa's two brothers, John and Samuel, volunteered in June of 1861. All three served in the same Concord heavy artillery company. In the spring of 1864, General Ulysses Grant decided to move the heavy artillery forces to the front lines against Robert E. Lee and the Confederate capitol in Richmond, Virginia. John Melvin never made it to the battlefield; he succumbed to dysentery at a military hospital in VA. He was buried in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. Asa was shot in the chest and killed during the Siege of



A monument of the angel "Victory" at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Concord, Massachusetts.

Petersburg, Virginia. He was buried in a mass grave on the battlefield. Sam Melvin was captured by the Confederate Army shortly after the battle of Spotsylvania and sent to the infamous Andersonville prison in Georgia. He died some four months later of disease and malnourishment. He was buried in Anderson National Cemetery. James Melvin, the youngest brother, had joined the army in 1864, but was not stationed at the front. He survived the war which ended in April 1865. He was determined to honor the memory of his three brothers. He became a successful businessman in Boston. His choice for the artist of his monument would be a rising star from Concord.

A little about Daniel Chester French: He made a name for himself with his first sculpture of the "Minuteman," a farmer



A sign explains the history behind the monument.

Submitted photos by Deborah Daniels

turned Revolutionary War soldier, that still stands at the ready at the North Bridge in Concord. He was 23 years old when he made this sculpture. He had done a year at MIT college where he had flunked all his science courses. He returned home to Concord where he was influenced to become an artist by May Alcott, Louisa May Alcott's sister, after she introduced him to clay in an art class. He did much of his sculpture work in his Stockbridge studio from 1896-1931, after becoming one of the most successful sculptors of his time. His most famous sculpture is of Abe Lincoln seated in the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC. He grew up in Concord, but his heart was in Western Mass.

Mourning Victory was duplicated at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. James Melvin donated



The grave of Daniel Chester French, who designed the memorial at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.

the funds to have it recreated by Daniel French again at the MET! A bit of male logic?

Daniel French was buried in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. He is up on the hill overlooking what he considered one of his best sculptures.

Memorial Day is on the horizon. There is a custom to observe a moment of silence at 3 p.m. to honor and remember all those who have died in defense of our country. I think we can all get behind this one.

A salute to all those men and women who lost their lives in war time fighting.

Do you have a memory or historical curiosity from the Hilltowns that you'd like to share with your neighbors? Send your story and photos to countryjournal@turley.com.

GARDEN

from page 4

nature doesn't provide adequate rainfall. Watering at the base of the plant will direct water to the roots and keep most of the foliage dry. A good practice in disease prevention. Once the plants are established, a deep watering twice a week is all that is necessary. Mulch of some kind, be it straw, grass clippings, chopped leaves or even sheets of newspaper will keep the weeds down and conserve moisture; some say it also helps to prevent disease by preventing backsplash onto the foliage.

Often times experts recommend pruning away the suckers that form

between the main stem and side shoots. If you do you will have fruit that is bigger, but in smaller quantities. Most of all, don't worry about the rules and regulations, just do your best and have fun with your first gardening experience.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

HISTORY

from page 4

Roosevelt Airfield in Long Island, New York in a win-it-or-die-trying" 3,610-mile transatlantic bet. At first, getting airborne was difficult, he had a heavy fuel load, but eventually, he did.

Thirty-three and a half hours later, Lindbergh landed at Le Bourget Airfield, Paris; more than 100,000 people; droves of reporters, and correspondents, awaited the arrival of the first pilot, ever, to make a nonstop U.S. to Europe crossing. The news generated headlines around the world, about "Lucky Lindy" and "The Lone Eagle." In addition to the acclaim, Lindbergh earned a cash award for his feat, the equivalent of more than \$500,000 in today's currency.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends "Lindbergh" by A. Scott Berg.

Brooklyn Bridge

Brooklyn was originally a separate city, bifurcated from New York City by the East River. Then, everything changed on May 24, 1883, when the Brooklyn Bridge opened; 250,000 people saun-

tered across it within 24 hours. It had taken 14 years for John A. Roebling, a German born industrial engineer, to construct what was then the world's largest and longest suspension structure.

According to History.com, "Roebling is credited with a major breakthrough in suspension-bridge technology: a web truss added to either side of the bridge roadway that greatly stabilized the structure." Until then, bridges of that type were notorious for their inability to deal with heavy winds and loads.

The Department of Transportation says today, 138 years later, more than 100,000 cars, 4,000 cyclists, and 10,000 pedestrians, cross daily.

History Matters is a biweekly feature courtesy of The Grateful American Book Prize, which is given to children's books that emphasize the importance of American history.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends David McCullough's "The Great Bridge: The Epic Story of the Building of the Brooklyn Bridge."

PLAINFIELD

Fire Department facility to be renamed in Chief's honor

PLAINFIELD — Join the Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department and Emergency Medical Service at 38 North Central Street as they rename the town's Fire/EMS facility as the Dennis A. Thatcher Public Safety Complex on Saturday, May 29, at 10 a.m.

The 10,000 square foot facility opened in 2008, housing the Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department and Plainfield Emergency Medical Service. The Complex now houses nine emergency apparatus in its four bay, six door garage. In addition, multiple conference and training rooms, radio dispatching desk and ready room, kitchen and bathrooms all are in full use by the 20 Fire Department members that include 15 first responders and 5 EMT-B's.

This facility became reality for the small hilltown during Chief Thatcher's 35 years as Fire Chief for the Town of Plainfield. In addition, Plainfield E3, Tank 2 and Rescue 10, as well as 13 pairs of self-contained breathing apparatus all were acquired via federal and state grants that both Dennis and

Theresa Thatcher completed and submitted during his tenure.

Dennis joined the volunteer department in 1976 while working on the three generation Thatcher Farm on Central Street. He became an EMT in 1978, volunteering on the Cummington Ambulance and moving up the ranks on the Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department. After the unexpected death of then Fire Chief "Dutch" Hathaway in 1984, Dennis was recommended by fire department members to become the next Chief of the department. After appointment by the Select Board, he became one of the Commonwealth's youngest chiefs serving until August of 2019, when he passed away after a difficult three-year battle with Stage 4 cancers.

His commitment to the protection and betterment of the town during all his adult life is unprecedented. The PVFD and EMS hopes the community will recognize this extraordinary achievement by joining them at the dedication of our Public Safety Complex in his name on Saturday, May 29, at 10 a.m.



Send Us Your Photos!

countryjournal@turley.com

WORTHINGTON

Selectboard discusses Community Center

By Shelby Macri

WORTHINGTON — Hilltown CDC Executive Director Dave Christopolis and Architect Kathy Ford met with the Selectboard to discuss the progress on the Community Center project.

Christopolis said the CDC received a Community Development Block Grant and he and Ford are working on the request for quote papers, which are 75% done. They will be basing bids on the parameters from the RFQ, which includes specifics for those working on the project.

"We're starting with the planning phase we ended with last year, and it includes the bid ready documents. There are specific items and information regarding what we expect from those we hire," Ford said. "There's a very detailed cost list at the end of the document and it outlines that we want people who have been through this process before and have worked with Senior Centers."

Preparing the documents, find-

ing a designer, setting up interviews, and completing this project will be a lengthy process, which is why Ford and Christopolis are trying to get the ball rolling.

Ford and Christopolis are hoping to look for designers starting in July or August. Everything is happening within the next year, partially because that's the stage the project is at and also because the grant being used gives 18 months to complete work on the project. This is impacted by the unique year caused by COVID-19, as different grants were delayed and some still are. Christopolis mentioned after using this funding, they're getting ready to apply for fiscal 2022 grants for this project.

The grant gives the town \$135,000 to put to bid for the design and Christopolis mentioned getting together with the board to meet about this project either in person or as often as possible to work out the details.

"This is a cost reimbursement project, we pay for the cost and work, then we send an invoice and will be reim-

bursed," Christopolis said. "We'll track the project in terms of spending at a later time; Kathy and I are putting a schedule together and will be working closely with Peggy [O'Neal] to stay in contact."

He added scheduling will be the most time consuming of the project as it requires a lot of back and forth between multiple parties.

Christopolis said the CDC is ready to go, they have the awarded money and they're ready to start this project with Worthington. A committee was formed before the beginning of this project and it was suggested making another committee for the project should be considered. The committee could be made of different board members in town, along with residents who would bring useful perspectives. Selectboard member Steve Smith mentioned that the towns current interim COA Director would be interested in getting involved and being a part of the committee for this project.

Christopolis will continue to provide information on the schedule of the project, including the next steps for

moving forward.

"As I understand it when the designer is selected in July, the CDC will apply for the fiscal 2022 grant then," Executive Assistant Peggy O'Neal said. "The grant requested for 2022 will help to pay for the designer that's selected."

While the project has started up again, there is a long way to go before the town starts to see construction. The RFQ is for Designer Services for Senior Center Architectural Design Project and it includes both architects and engineers; when a designer is chosen a design document will be created. Ford explained the CDBG funding for Bid Ready Design Documents from 2020 are just coming in and are available for use. There have been no firm dates set for issuing the RFQ, but it will be legally published as required with all applicable dates when it's ready.

Though the construction has started yet the project is officially starting and residents should look forward to hearing more information on the COA Community Center this year.

CHESTER

OLD BUSINESS

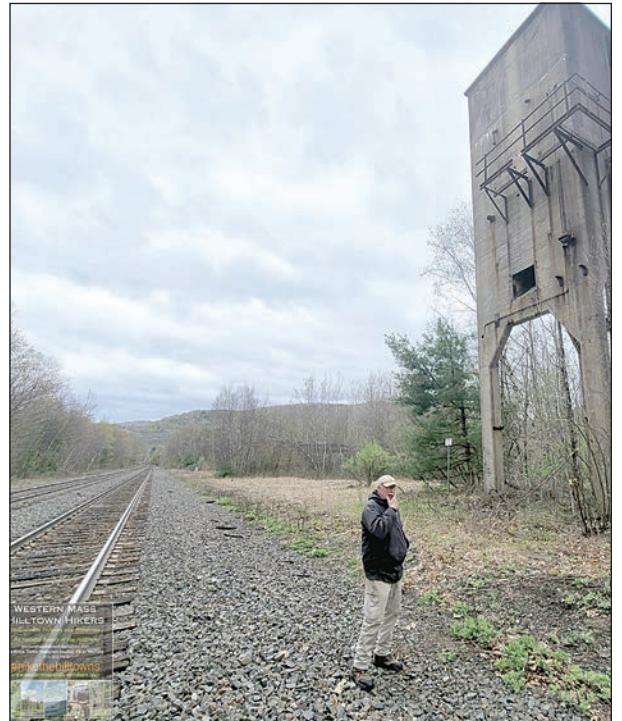


Dave Pierce pictured at the Hampden Emery and Corundum Company in Chester on the Boston & Albany Railroad.



Dave Pierce visits the Chester Water Tower remains.

Submitted photos



The Chester Coal Tower remains an imposing figure rising above the tree line.

Board of Health receives grant award

CHESTER — The Town of Chester has been awarded a Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Municipal Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

The Chester Board of Health faced significant challenges during COVID at the transfer station. The BOH implemented safe procedures for both the

attendants and residents in order to continue to recycle and follow all DEP regulations.

The transfer station remained fully open during COVID-19, with the exception of the swap shop, and provided both rubbish and recycling services by mandating face coverings, providing gloves, practicing social distancing, sanitizing all

areas and education to the attendants.

The grant will be used for a new Universal Waste shed and the town will be able to accept batteries, thermostats, thermometers, and household light bulbs free of charge with an annual transfer station permit. The BOH looks forward to expanding recycling in the Town of Chester in the years to come.

Road work begins May 26, expect delays

CHESTER — Milling and paving will be done on Bromley Road in Chester from the Chester-Huntington town line to the intersection of East River Road beginning on Wednesday, May 26.

Please expect delays and find alternate routes where possible.

PROJECT

Current Forman Carl Baldasaro is in charge of which projects get done and this year the milling and paving will be from the Huntington-Chester town line to the intersection of East River Road and Bromley Road. One side of the road will be milled and dug up before being repaved, then the same will be done to the other side. Huntoon said that there is a separate project for Prospect Street as it is in dire need of repair, though that project is being done by PVPC and there's been a delay in work due to paperwork, though the project is expected to start soon.

"This project will take a good chunk

of Chapter 90 money, and Bromley is basically a done deal," Huntoon said. "It just needs to be milled and overlaid; there's no guardrails to be put in. I don't have the amount currently, but the taxpayers aren't paying for it until later on."

This project is ongoing because the roads have a lot of distance to them, and the project needs to be done in sections. The project was supposed to finish last year but was postponed due to COVID-19.

Now that the project is back on track, residents will need to be careful along Bromley Road, as the Highway Department and Selectboard ask resi-

dents to expect delays or find alternative routes when travelling. Additionally, residents and drivers are asked to be patient with road crews and workers and be careful when around their working area as well.

Huntoon said she made postings for the construction on the town website under the "news" or "road closure" tabs, as well as on the Chester Community Forum on Facebook to make sure as many people were notified as possible. Construction is expected to last for a short while, but the ongoing project will come to a close by the end of this construction.

For more information on the Bromley Road project or other town projects, people can visit the community forum on Facebook or visit the town website at townofchester.net.

At the board meeting on May 24, Warden said Gov. Charlie Baker's lifting of the Massachusetts State of Emergency on June 15 means the board will have to go back to in person meetings and cease its remote attendance options. She said state representatives are working to try and get a solution to allow meetings to still allow for remote options, but there's currently nothing in place for when the emergency is lifted next month.

from page 1

RUSSELL

June 7 election features no contested town races

RUSSELL — There are no contested races on the ballot for the Town Election on Monday, June 7.

The following positions and candidates on the ballot are for three year terms unless otherwise stated: Selectman, Thomas Kulig Jr.; Moderator, J. Illtyd Fernandez-Sierra, one year term; Gateway Regional School Committee, Tara Balboni; Library Trustee, Gloria Farrell;

Tre Warden, Louis Garlo, one year term; Cable T.V. Commissioner, Louis Garlo; Cemetery Commissioner, Karen McTaggart; Municipal Light Board, Louis Garlo; Sewer Commissioner, Dennis Moran; Water Commissioner, Roger Bush Jr.; Constable, Gloria Farrell; Planning Board, William Hardie Sr., James Oleksak, Michael Carpenter, three seats available.

★ CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT ★

Thomas Kulig

To the residents of Russell, my name is Thomas Kulig and I am running for Selectboard member. I am an Airforce veteran. My Wife Brenda and I have been residents and homeowners in Russell for 37 years. We have raised three children here, all going through the Gateway School System. All of them have done well. Our oldest daughter is in manufacturing and distribution for Yankee Candle, our son is in Chicago working as an IT Teach for Levy Restaurants, and the youngest daughter is Team Supervisor for an insurance firm in Framingham.

I have 46 years' experience in the aircraft maintenance field, with 37 of those years as an aircraft inspector. As an aircraft inspector, I've been involved with the review and interpretation of government documents, as well as documentation from foreign governments.

My duties included inspection of the aircraft and the work being performed on the aircraft per the manufacturer's maintenance manuals. Situations did arise when work being

done was found suspect and I would have to require the technician to redo the job with inspector oversight, especially concerning flight control systems. It was my responsibility to make sure all repair work, and all documentation pertinent to the work performed, was correct and all aircraft airworthy.

As a taxpayer, I have always paid attention to what was going on in Russell, but my work schedule prevented much direct involvement. I'm currently a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals and learning much about the town bylaws. I attend Selectboard meetings and town meetings. Being retired, I can focus more attention on issues concerning the town. I will work to bring more focus on communication and transparency between the Selectboard and all town departments, as well as the Selectboard and the townspeople. I am looking forward to working with the various departments and the other Selectboard members to help improve the town infrastructure, business practices, stay fiscally responsible, and make good and commonsense decisions for Russell.



AMC Noble View Outdoor Center has re-opened its campsites for business this summer.

Submitted photos

Noble View reopens to public

RUSSELL — AMC Noble View Outdoor Center has officially reopened for business! Noble View's peaceful mountaintop location overlooks the Pioneer Valley and features 360 acres of woodlands, trails, and farm fields.

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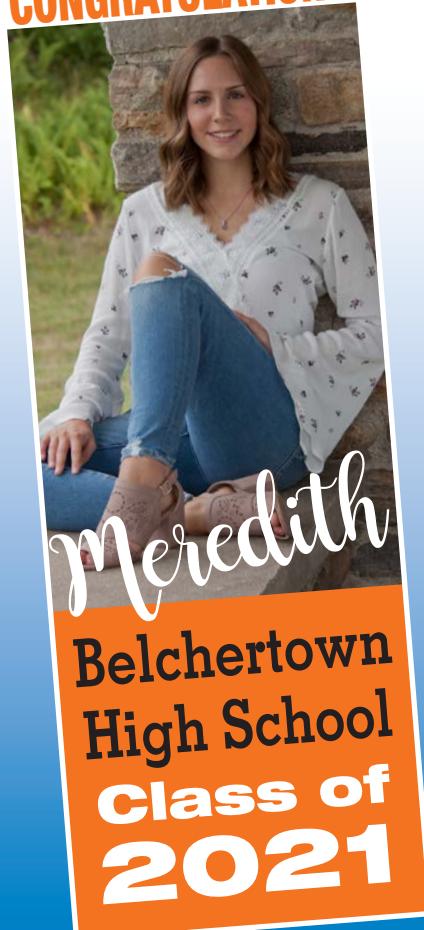
Day hikers are also welcome to explore the 12 miles of trails on the property.

Noble View's new caretaker, Nan, is always happy to say hello or give hike recommendations to guests and visitors. To learn more, visit www.outdoors.org/destinations/massachusetts-and-new-hampshire/noble-view/.

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BLANDFORD

Fair makes repairs ahead of 153rd fair

By Mary Kronholm

BLANDFORD — "We're back," said Fair President Bruce Wyman on Saturday, May 22. "We took a forced hiatus but we're not going away. We've been around for 150 years and we'll be around a lot longer," he added. This will be the 153rd Blandford Fair.

The fair is working on a complete renovation of the Art Building and other structures in preparation of this year's Labor Day Weekend Fair. According to Wyman, there is a new parking site for horse show trailers and recreational vehicles so horse show competitors can be closer to their animals. There will be some "cosmetic painting" happening in mid-June. Wyman said that volunteers are always welcome and anyone who wants to volunteer should contact any member of the fair's Board of Directors.

The Art Barn has been completely lifted from its base, which was merely a block under each upright. The structure was jacked up held by two steel I-beams so the work can be completed. The Art Barn was originally two buildings which were relocated from the south end of the Fair Grounds. Both will be re-situated



Reconstruction proceeds on the Art Barn on the Blandford Fairgrounds as the fair prepares for its 153rd year. One building is jacked up ready for new concrete supports; the second one, on right, will be repaired as well. Photos by Mary Kronholm

in the same side-by-side location by the Gazebo. Then they will be lowered on newly poured concrete piers for stability and a new wood floor installed.

Once side-by-side, the buildings will have the same roof height. Fair Vice President Greg Girard explained that

there will be space underneath left for proper air circulation to help preserve the structures.

The fair will start off Friday, Sept. 3, with the annual truck pull event and continue on through the close of the day on Monday, Sept. 6.



Fair Vice President Greg Girard indicates the need for reconstruction of the Art Barn.



Two steel I-Beams support the structure as it is raised.

Town offices on pace to open Saturday, May 29

BLANDFORD — The most recent COVID-19 information from the Board of Health has the Town Offices opening on Saturday, May 29. The state of emergency could be eliminated by June 15, but, according to the BOH representative Jennifer Girard, "You never know if it's going to change."

The board made the following appointments: Don Brainerd and Jim Kronholm to Zoning Board of Appeals through 2024; Peter Milford

to the Historical Commission through 2024; Maggie Zajko to the Recreation Committee through 2024, David Waldron appointed Highway Superintendent for the coming year, as well as Emergency Management team; Nicholas Chiusano as Plumbing and Gas Inspector through June 2022. Chiusano is the Assistant Plumbing and Gas Inspector and according to Town Administrator Joshua A. Garcia the error will be corrected next week.

The board also appointed Joshua A. Garcia as Town Administrator and to the Emergency Management Team.

The board signed off on the contract between the town and City Point Partners for the Owner Project Manager for the building project of the new Highway Department garage and the renovation of the existing Highway Department garage for use as a Fire Station. The board will not meet next Monday, May 31, Memorial Day.

Russell Stage Road closed thru June 15

BLANDFORD — Water Department Superintendent Gordon Avery reminds residents that Russell Stage Road is closed to through traffic from Tuesday, June 1, through Friday, June 11. The Water Department is replacing a section of water line.

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BLANDFORD



Thatcher Berman, who plays for the Springfield Jr. Pics, had a shot from the point and tipped in to tie the game during the USA Hockey CCM High Performance Boys Festival in Marlborough, Massachusetts last weekend.

Submitted photo

Local player scores tying goal in tournament

BLANDFORD — Thatcher Berman, of the Springfield Jr. Pics, was one of 60 players from across Massachusetts selected to participate in the USA Hockey CCM High Performance Boys Festival in Marlborough, Massachusetts on May 21 and May 22. As one 20 defensemen featured from across the state, he played two solid games which included a goal assist with 25 seconds left in game one.

The CCM High Performance program has provided opportunities for male and female players including Charlie Coyle, Jack Eichel, and Frank Vatrano. The program seeks to

identify and develop the best male and female players in Massachusetts and provide an opportunity to develop and play with and against the best players in Massachusetts and the United States. Players at the Festival were evaluated by individuals who come from a strong hockey background and are currently employed by NCAA Division I programs or NHL teams.

Thatcher is 15 years old and is beginning his third year as a Springfield Jr. Pic. He currently attends Monument Mountain Regional High School in Great Barrington. He is the son of Jon and Wendy Berman of Blandford.

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Finance Committee annual informational meeting on June 7

BLANDFORD — The Finance Committee will conduct the annual Informational Meeting, locally referred to as the "mini-town meeting," on Monday, June 7, at 7 p.m. at the town offices.

The Finance Committee will review the budget for the coming fiscal year and any other warrant articles dealing with financial matters.

The total recommended operat-

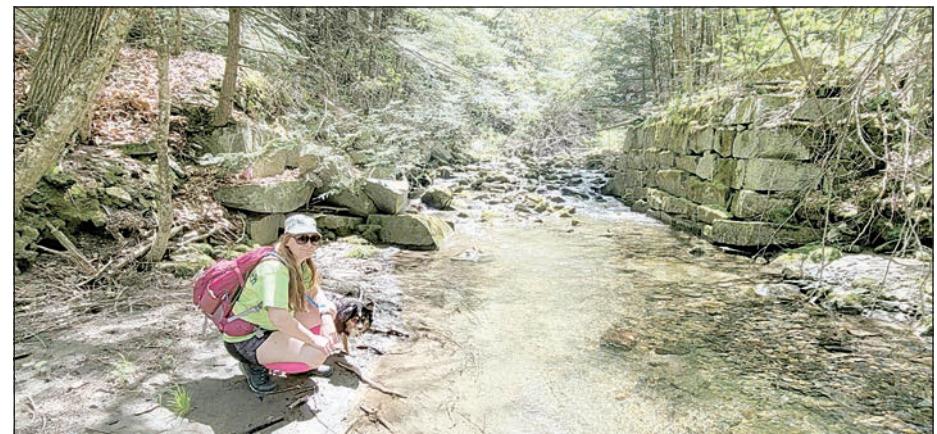
ing budget is \$4,007,861.02, which is \$316,115.13 less than the approved fiscal 2021 budget and \$64,604.56 less than what all departments requested.

The Water Department budget comes in at \$541,981.95, or \$648 more than last year's operating budget.

Details of the budget and a copy of the warrant are available online at the town website, townofblandford.com.

This will be an in-person meeting.

WATER BREAK



Kim Kelliher and Finley take a cool break at Sanderson Brook in Blandford along the old settler road Smith Road.

Submitted photo

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GOSHEN

Town officials discuss building reopening plans

By Shelby Macri

GOSHEN — With the Governor lifting the mask mandate while outside on Saturday, May 29, town officials are talking about re-opening guidelines and suggestions for town buildings.

On the Monday, May 17, the Selectboard had a discussion with the Covid Incident Command Mike Kurland, who has been helping during the unique times of the virus and pandemic. The Incident Command position is an Emergency Management function that the federal government uses to designate who is in charge of pandemic related issues, like overseeing and reviewing guidelines and giving advisement on COVID-19

related issues for the town.

The Board of Health is also involved with COVID-19 related issues and items; during the meeting the Selectboard appointed Kurland as the advisor to the BOH along with his position as the Covid Incident Command. At the same meeting the Selectboard appointed Kurland to continue his role of Incident Command. At that meeting Kurland said he'd review guidelines and options for re-opening, to give the board recommendations.

On Monday, May 24, Kurland shared that he'll be making and issuing a draft of re-opening guidelines. Town Administrator Dawn Scaparotti said the Town Offices will open on June 15, but guidelines concerning wearing masks

indoors will be outlined and reviewed at a later board meeting. Kurland said some examples of guidelines for re-opening include people wearing masks inside the offices, like fully vaccinated people not needing to wear masks inside while non-vaccinated people will need to wear a mask.

Additionally, after the guidelines are created, they'll be reviewed with town employees; similar guidelines will be made for employees working in the building. Allowing fully vaccinated employees to not wear a mask inside, though they can if they choose to if they don't feel safe or comfortable, while non-vaccinated people will need to wear masks. Residents will need to wait on

dates for guidelines as they are reviewed and become available, while the next Selectboard meeting on Tuesday, June 1, only has the ATM warrant on the agenda, Kurland's review may be added if it's ready by then.

The Selectboard also appointed Josh LaFond as the third BOH member. LaFond has moved into town within the last year and has a background in public health and has experience working with propane. This means LaFond can help with the transfer station along with other BOH duties. Residents can check the town website for more information and news regarding the town opening and what guidelines may be associated with that at www.goshen-ma.us.

Dog license late fees start June 1

GOSHEN — Town Clerk Kristen Estelle reminds residents that 2020 dog licenses expired March 31, and town dogs must now have a 2021 license.

The \$25 late fee per dog goes into effect June 1. To obtain a license, mail a completed dog license form, current rabies certificate indicating if the dog is spayed or neutered, a check payable to the Town of Goshen, and a stamped self-ad-

dressed envelope, two stamps for multiple licenses.

Neutered/ spayed dogs are \$5 each; intact dogs are \$10. Valid rabies certificates are required and must be sent with the dog license form

A dog licensing form is available at www.goshen-ma.us/dog-licenses. Address the envelope to Goshen Town Clerk, 40 Main Street, Goshen, MA 01032.

COA plans ice cream social June 26

GOSHEN — The Council on Aging has planned an ice cream social for the community, family, and friends at the Tilton Ball field at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 26.

The band Sidetracked will be there to provide entertainment and there will be individual ice cream sundaes for each of attendee.

Please wear masks, bring a chair, and the COA will have a safe amount of distance between each group. If

someone would like to attend, but do not have a ride, please call Henrietta at 413-268-7465 or Evelyn 413-268-3316 for a ride. Everyone has been inside long enough, it's time to get out! There will be no rain date, but the COA will try to make do with the pavilion if need be.

The next Walk, Talk or Snack will take place on Thursday, June 17, at 1 p.m. near the town parking lot. No rain please.

CUMMINGTON

WARRANT

"We're going to continue the cemetery restoration project where we're hiring this outfit to come restore some of the stones in the cemetery," said Finance Committee Chairman Dennis Forgea. "We've been doing it for several years, but last year because of COVID-19 we didn't do it."

Article 14 is a Highway Department request for a new bucket loader. The loader will cost \$154,500 and is going to be the first purchase for the town's capital plan. The old loader is reaching the end of its expected life cycle and is due for replacement before it breaks down at an inopportune time.

"We're developing the finer plan now. That is on it, that's the first piece of equipment that's going to be purchased on that," Forgea said. "It's the piece of equipment they use the most and it's got to be reliable."

This remainder of the warrant focuses on essential articles to keep town operations functioning and the

fiscal 2022 budget. Forgea said this year's proposed preliminary budget is a 1.75% increase from last fiscal year's budget. The Finance Committee and Selectboard met to discuss the preliminary budget for ATM on Thursday, May 27.

"We tried to keep it as level as we could. Some things you have to do to stay competitive with other towns and keep the good help you do have," Forgea said.

There are several large increases, but not all of them were controlled by the town. Forgea said unfunded mandates for police reform training. The \$20,000 increase in the department's budget includes \$7,000 for training and \$13,000 for the police bridge program for police reform.

"The state hasn't come up with any money to do it and we have to have ours done within the timeframe," Forgea said. "You got to do it or you're not a certified police officer."

Forgea said one of the current preliminary changes that upset him most is the unemployment compensation, which is going from \$450 to \$12,800.

"The state sets the rate on what we pay event though we have no one on unemployment and haven't had [anyone]," he said. "My own thoughts on it are people who are on unemployment and collecting money, the money's got to come from somewhere. If you talk to any employer, they're in the same boat."

Several of the changes made to make town employee salaries more competitive include increasing the accountant from \$11,000 to \$20,000 and increasing the collector by \$1,500. The Fire Chief stipend got a \$2,000 raise, the firefighter stipend \$1,000, and the Selectmen a \$3,000 increase. Forgea said with Monica Vandaloski no longer a member of the Selectboard, the town felt she should be compensated for all the administrative secretary

duties she continues to take care of.

The Board of Health is also receiving a proposed \$6,000 increase for its operating budget to bring it more in line with their expenses.

"This is just the everyday operation of our compactor station and all the stuff they have to do, plus the monitoring of the old landfill," Forgea said.

The town is also seeing a substantial \$45,000 decrease on this year's Central Berkshire Regional School District Operating Expenses due to the town have less students in the five-year rolling average assessment calculations.

The Finance Committee was scheduled to meet with the Selectboard on Thursday, May 27, to review the budget before Annual Town Meeting. The ATM starts at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 4. The meeting will be at Pettingill Park, weather permitting, and COVID-19 protocols will be in effect. For a copy of the warrant, visit cummington-ma.gov.

News, photo publication policy

As a community newspaper our focus has always been local news. While we try very hard to run upcoming events as a public service whenever space allows, space does not allow us to run an upcoming event repeatedly. Our policy is to limit publication of upcoming events to one article in advance of the event and, space permitting, a second brief reminder article the week prior to an event, and to run those articles in only one section of the paper, and not in multiple sections simultaneously.

All such public service announcements and photos are subject to space limitations and deadlines, therefore publication cannot be guaranteed. Whenever copy for the week exceeds allotted space, news copy will take priority, and public service copy is the first area to be cut. We also reserve the right to edit for style and space, and are under no obligation to print lists of sponsorships, or articles that arrive after deadline, unless time and space allows.

Deadline is Monday at NOON, on holidays it is **Friday at 2 p.m.**



Public Auction

THURSDAY, JUNE 10TH AT 11:00 A.M.

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ATTORNEY FOR MORTGAGEE & SECURED PARTY

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INSPECTIONS: SATURDAY, JUNE 5TH 10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.
TIME OF SALE - 8:30 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M.

Aaron Posnik
AUCTIONEERS - APPRAISERS
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WESTHAMPTON

Connects group looks to bridge community after COVID-19

By Shelby Macri

WESTHAMPTON — Ways in which people connect have changed due to the pandemic and quarantine and a few Westhampton residents have formed a group to get the community back together.

The group is called Westhampton Connects and is made up of residents and some town employees like Roberta Armenti from the Board of Health and Susan Bronstein, the COVID-19 coordinator. Other members of the group attended the meeting on Monday, May 24, to introduce the group and its current projects. Members Susan O'Rourke, Julia Lennen, and Jes Williamson joined as well, with Lennon and Williamson both speaking on the two projects the group is currently focusing on.

The first project is a walking map for the town through the Healthy Hampshire Initiative, the group has come up with areas and roads in town for people to walk and visit the town. They have already created a draft of the map and are expecting to see it soon and share it with some town offices.

"This map would be a part of the

town and we'd be telling people to walk in these areas so we'd like to have the Selectboard and Highway Department take a look at it first," Lennon said. "There's only a certain amount being made but if it goes well, we could make more, maybe specialize one to the fall and places to walk then."

Lennon explained they've included more than a dozen photos of town, information on the areas listed, and the designing process was fun to see. Armenti said the board or anyone curious, could look online at the Healthy Hampshire Initiative website to see examples of walking maps. As this project is underway and being funded by other means the board didn't need to discuss funding and agreed to look at the maps.

The second project Westhampton Connects is working on includes a \$500 budget for needed materials, as they'd like to create a community art walk.

Williamson explained that community members and residents are encouraged to create an art piece to be displayed along an outlined path, and when the walkway is full people will be able to see their friends, family, and neighbors'

works. Additionally, they'd like to do a larger art project where people can contribute as well.

"It'd be a six by five-foot frame where people can weave something of themselves," Williamson said. "If there's someone who knits or a group of knitters, they could create yarn and weave that into the piece. It'd be like a type of quilt."

The community weaving project and the art walk would be held behind the library as they've already asked and been granted permission. The group is asking the board for \$500 in CARES funds to help get materials and supplies that they will use, and also offer to those who want to partake, but don't have the material.

The board wondered if this project would qualify for grants and Bronstein said she believed it would. She said the project is only being done because of COVID-19 to bring the community back together, and that she believes this project should qualify.

Selectboard member Terri Anderson said that if this project doesn't apply to CARES money, then the board should still find a way to fund the project, to

which Chair Phil Dowling agreed and said they could find other funding if needed.

While the project was approved to be submitted for funding, Williamson shared that this art walk and art project would happen in August so the board and Westhampton Connects will have time to find funding. There is no official date yet, though Williamson said the group was thinking of having the art walk before the community weaving with the weaving being on the weekend of Aug. 13. They also discussed having the art walk the week of Aug. 13 and doing the community weave on that weekend to end the event.

The art project is set up for this fall and residents will have to wait a few months for updates on when they can submit artworks. As for the walking maps, after they're finished, they'll be distributed as much as possible. Lennon suggested having them handed out at town offices, working with the town to have them mailed out and on the town website. For now, residents can keep their eyes peeled for updates and announcements from the town offices or on the website, westhampton-ma.com.

Chinese acrobatics leads June

WESTHAMPTON — The Westhampton Public Library has several new events coming up for the community in June including learning about Chinese acrobatics.

Li Liu will host a special one-woman acrobatic performance "Traditions of Chinese Acrobatics." Li performs hand balancing, artistic cycling, plate spinning, ribbon dancing, diabolos, and foot juggling. A limited number of volunteers get to join her on stage to create an impromptu ribbon dance, and also to try their hand at plate spinning. Educational connections are made with the Chinese language and culture.

Li will explain some of the rituals

of Chinese New Year, teach the audience some basic Chinese phrases, and encourage them to think about what it might have been like to grow up in a different time and place. Please email westhampton@cwmars.org to register for this outdoor event. Due to social distancing protocols, attendance is limited.

Virtual Book Group will meet on Tuesday, June 22, at 7 p.m. Book Group meets once a month and is open to new members. They are still deciding on its next read. Please email westhampton@cwmars.org for Zoom login information.

"Three Paths to Memoir" will be

held on Thursday, June 24 at 7:00 pm. A memoir, or a narrative based on an author's memories, is a flexible medium. Hear readings from three local writers of memoir including Anne C. Averill, Celia Jeffries, and Lesléa Newman. Each author will discuss her personal approach to the art of memoir. The panel will be moderated by author Patricia Lee Lewis and there will be time for Q & A with the audience. Please register here for this online event: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ld-uhpjIsHdHwODRx_h9j-463GyV5ue4_

The age-old rivalry of cats versus dogs will kickoff this year's summer

reading program on Saturday, June 26, at 11 a.m. All ages are welcome to join the library for the summer reading kickoff. This year the library is working within the CSLP theme of "Tails and Tales" and having a cats versus dogs epic showdown.

Upon registration, readers will choose a side and read to earn points for their team. Kids ages 12 and under will be able to adopt a plush to read to and there will be several outdoor events, along with an opportunity to earn double reading points. There will be prizes awarded to top readers and a raffle prize for a member of the winning team. Are readers Team Cat or Team Dog?

BYLAW

years ago, where residents voting on the proposed bylaw were passionate about being able to utilize detached dwellings on property for rental purposes.

"Two years ago, at town meeting, we were proposing a change to the bylaws to include short term rentals. At the meeting people expressed interest in adding non-attached accessory apartments," Planning Board Chair Amy Bisbee said. "People seemed very positive about it."

A detached accessory apartment is defined as a "second dwelling unit, complete with its own means of egress, sleeping, cooking and sanitary facilities, that is accessory to but separate from the single-family dwelling unit. An owner of the single-family dwelling shall occupy either the single-family dwelling or the accessory apartment as his or her primary residence."

The new bylaw does put a restriction on the detached dwelling structure being not larger than 90 square feet. It must also not be within 40 feet of the main dwelling. It also adds language to clarify attached accessory apartments in the main dwelling.

The second bylaw proposal is to update the ground-mounted solar photovoltaic bylaw for land use, operations and management, plantings, vegetation management, clearing, and spacing of solar arrays. It also adds stormwater management plan and battery storage requirements.

"It's a lot of changes for some pretty minor updates. This is not a major overhaul," Bisbee said. "We've reviewed several solar submissions and have gotten some lessons learned from that are trying to do some minor updates."

The new energy storage section

adds battery storage systems that must be located above the 100-year floodplain and outlines the exact specifications the building housing the system must have. The building and systems will need Fire Chief approval.

This is an emerging field of having energy storage on site. We took our first stab at it," Bisbee said. "I think that will become more clear as we have energy storage in practice."

The Operations and Maintenance Plan section has been expanded to provide more specific requirements for the stormwater management plan. This includes 10 bullet points covering everything the stormwater management plan needs to cover in its drawings, narratives, and calculations. There's also expanded language covering landscaping, the clearing of vegetation and use of herbicides.

"It updates some language on vegetation, both clearing and planting; fencing and access road; landscaping, and distance between arrays to allow for wildlife corridors," Bisbee said.

The full text of both bylaws with the proposed changes is available on the Planning Board page on the town website, burg.org.

Annual Town Meeting will begin at 5 p.m. on Monday, June 7. The meeting will take place at the playground behind the Anne T. Dunphy School. Check-in will begin at 4:30 p.m. Please arrive early so the meeting can start promptly at 5 p.m. Attendees will be asked to wear masks. For a full copy of the warrant, visit burg.org. Any questions may be directed to the Town Administrator at 413-268-8418 or the Town Clerk at 413-268-8402.

from page 1

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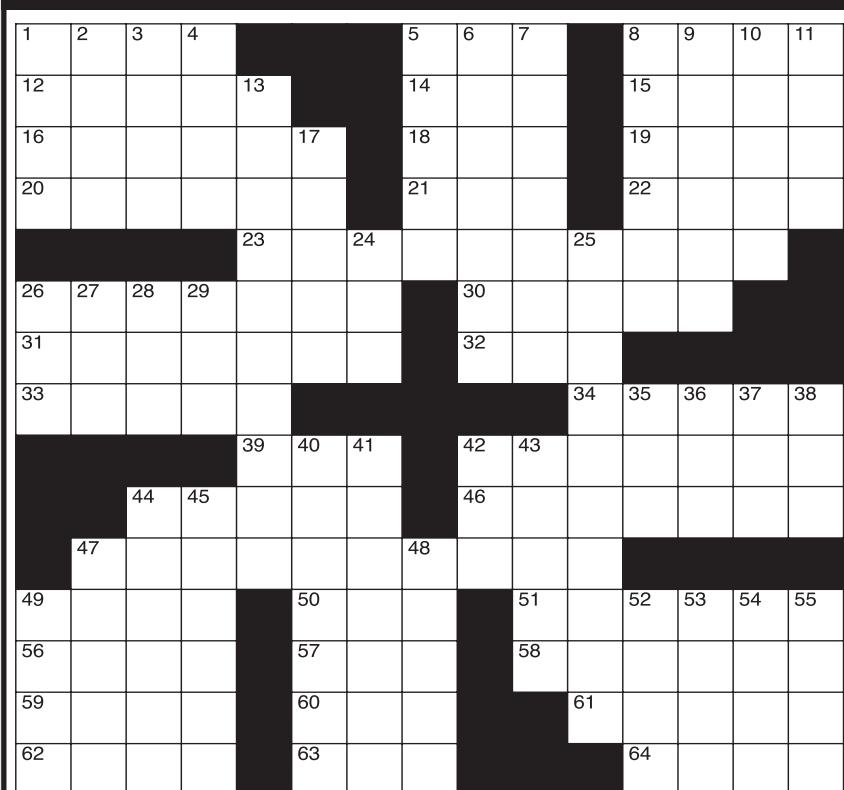
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CLUES ACROSS

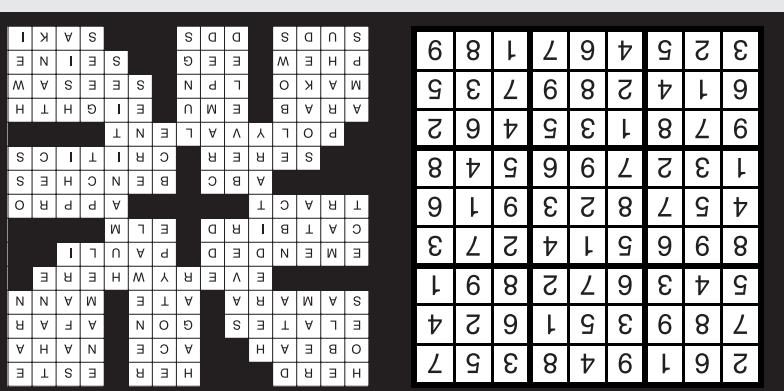
- A group of sheep
- Of she
- This (Spanish)
- A type of sorcery
- A team's best pitcher
- Port in southern Japan
- Makes very happy
- Trigonometric unit of measurement
- From a distance
- Winged nut
- Consumed
- "Heat" director
- In all places
- Made improvements to
- St. ___ Girl: brand of beer
- A type of "seat"
- Wood
- A brief treatise on a subject of interest
- Approval

CLUES DOWN

- Basics
- Where judges sit
- W. African religion
- Commentators
- Having many different functions
- Member of a Semitic people
- Flightless, fast-running bird
- After the seventh
- Small N. Zealand tree
- Health care pro (abbr.)
- Playground mainstay
- Expressing relief
- Records brain activity (abbr.)
- Fishing net
- Took caregiver
- Japanese beverage
- Garden tools

- Early Syrian kingdom
- 500 sheets of paper
- Information
- Beloved comic strip character
- Distinct form of a plant
- Replenishment
- Semitransparent glassy substance
- Expedition to observe animals
- Small N. Zealand tree
- One who held
- Anglo-Saxon king
- Obtain in return for labor
- Inheritable genetically
- One who rescues
- Doctor of Education
- Liberal arts
- Shock treatment
- Disfigure
- When you hope to get there
- Peacock network
- Part of (abbr.)
- The 21st letter of the Greek alphabet
- Not just "play"
- Former CIA
- Reduced to a sloping edge
- Restricted the development of
- Sciences degree
- Sea eagles
- Saturated
- Joints
- Sailing boat
- Respiratory organs
- Guitarists use them
- Disco act: Bee ___
- First Chinese dynasty
- Intentionally lose
- Muslim people of China

Answers



THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, love and romance are definitely in your favor this week. If you have been pondering setting up a date or taking a spouse out for a night on the town, do it.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, you may be unsure of which way a relationship is leaning and waiting for the other person to make the next move. Don't let opportunities pass you by.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Other people are not mind readers, Libra. If you need something or are unhappy with a situation, you must speak up. Address concerns promptly.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Your thoughts may be pulling you one way and then another, Capricorn. Find focus by zeroing in on the main thing that needs the most attention at this point.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Even the best partnerships can be challenging, Taurus. Right now neither one of you is looking to take the lead. Even if it means flipping a coin, someone has to step up.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, if a supervisor seems set in his or her ways, you might have to present your proposal in language that will appeal to this person the most.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, if you are off doing your own thing, you may have to instruct others who count on you how to proceed in your absence. Keep the lines of communication open.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

It is quite easy to manipulate a situation if others aren't paying attention, Scorpio. If you are guiding or mentoring someone, exercise caution to stay neutral.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

Don't get ahead of yourself by projecting scenarios that may never see the light of day, Sagittarius. It's better to live in the present and then adjust to what comes your way.

AQUARIUS

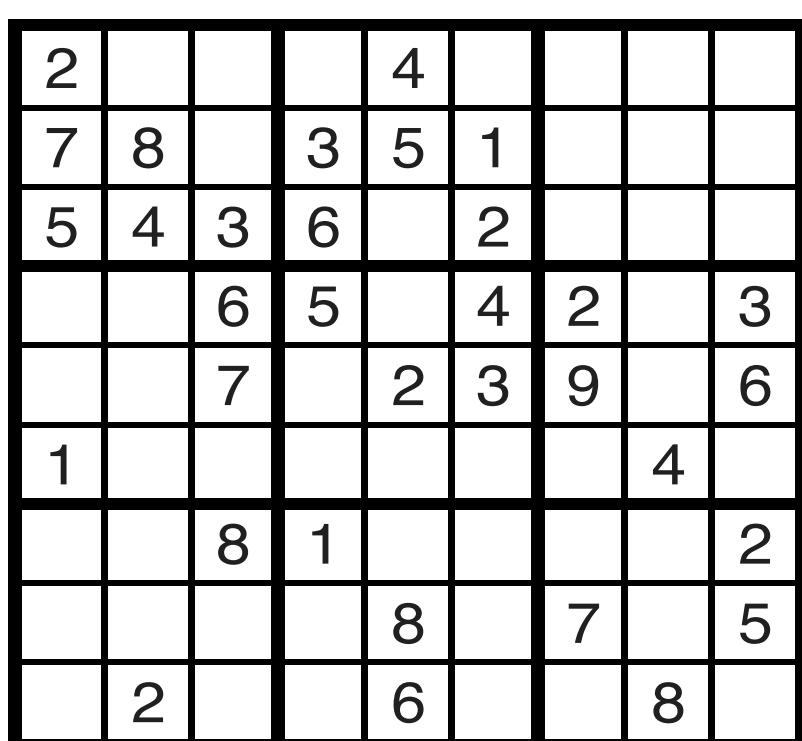
Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, you may have to take a more reserved approach to get where you need to go. Even still, your love for adventure and freedom can be compelling motivators.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Figure out your needs before making long-term plans with others. Even though you're sure of yourself, sometimes you let others take the lead.



SUDOKU

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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OBITUARY

Lillian E. St. Germain, 98

Lillian E. St. Germain, 98, passed away on Saturday, May 22, 2021 at Genesis at Westfield Center. She was born in Chester to the late Guy E. and Cora (Daniels) Barr. Lillian loved to play cards, dance, travel and have lunch with her friends.

Sadly, she was predeceased by her beloved husband Arthur P. St. Germain, her brother Earl Barr, and her sisters,



Doris Olds, Eunice Kondrat, and her niece and caretaker Mary Farrar. Lillian leaves her sister Grace Wheeler and numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grand-nephews.

A Funeral Home Service will be held on Friday, May 28, 2021 at noon in the Firtion Adams FS, 76 Broad St. Westfield, MA with burial to follow in Norwich Bridge Cemetery, Huntington.

DEATH NOTICE

ST. GERMAIN, LILLIAN E.

Died May 22, 2021
Funeral Service Friday, May 28, at noon
Firtion Adams FS

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The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF CUMMINGTON

The Town of Cummington seeks sealed bids for the following equipment with or without operator, to be on call from July 1, 2021 through June 2022.

Large excavator 9-12 ton 10 wheel or tri-axle dump truck

Bulldozer
Backhoes
Bucket loader
Rubber tired excavator
Chippers
Rake and broom tractor
Seeding machine
Bucket truck
Forwarder
Log truck

Bids are to be submitted in sealed envelopes marked "2021-2022 Highway Equipment" and mailed or delivered to the Board of Selectmen, Town of Cummington, P.O. Box 128, 33 Main Street, Cummington, Ma. 01026 before 7:30 p.m. **June 10, 2021** at which time they will be opened and publicly read aloud at the Community House, 33 Main Street, Cummington, Ma.

The Board of Selectmen reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in whole or in part according to the best interest of the Town.

Eliza Dragon, Chairman
Kenneth L. Howes
Brian J. Gilman
Board of Selectmen

05/20, 05/27/2021

Town of Middlefield

The Town of Middlefield is seeking bids to supply heating oil and related repairs as needed, to the Town Hall for Fiscal year 2022. Delivery is to one 2,000 gal. tank. Bids are to include all delivery charges and taxes. Bidders must submit proof of insurance when submitting bids. To obtain annual usage, please contact the Selectboard at: 413-623-2079 or selectboard@middlefield-ma.net. Bids must be clearly marked: "Heating Oil" and received by **6:30 p.m. on June 16, 2021**. Bids will be opened at 6:45 p.m., June 16, 2021. The Selectboard has to right to reject any or all bids. Bids may be emailed or mailed to: Selectboard, P.O. Box 238, Middlefield, MA 01243.

05/20, 05/27/2021

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Mark R. Josselyn to Christopher Chandonet dated November 17, 2016 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book 21450, page 188, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 o'clock, AM on the 23rd day of June, 2021 A.D.**, at 155 Main Street, Russell, Massachusetts all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, To wit:

"The land in Russell, Hampden County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

PARCEL ONE Certain real estate situate in Russell, Hampden County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a stone monument in the northerly line of Main Street marking the southeasterly corner of

land of Angelo Curro, Jr. et ux and the southwesterly corner of land of Frank Mesick et ux, and running thence NORTHERLY along

said Mesick land, about

eighty three (83) feet to an iron pin marking an angle in the line between said Curro and Mesick lands; thence

WESTERLY along other land of

said Angelo Curro, Jr. et ux, nine and 5/10 (9.5) feet to

a point which is distant northerly eighty four (84) feet from

a point in said northerly line of Main Street which is distant westerly fifteen (15) feet from

the stone monument at the place of beginning; thence SOUTHERLY along land of

said Angelo Curro, Jr. et ux, eighty four (84) feet to the aforementioned point in said northerly line of Main Street; and thence EASTERLY along said Main Street, fifteen (15) feet to the stone monument at the place of beginning."

Terms of sale: Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00)

Dollars required to be paid in cash or certified or bank cashier's check by the purchaser at the time and place of the sale. The balance of

the purchase price shall be paid in cash or certified or bank cashier's check within thirty (30) days and the deed transferred contemporaneously.

The purchaser shall also pay directly to the auctioneer a premium equal to

five percent (5%) of the purchase price. The purchaser

will be responsible for all closing costs, Massachusetts

deed excise stamps and

recording fees. The purchaser shall be required to sign a memorandum of terms containing the above. The sale may be postponed or adjourned by the attorney for the mortgagor. The description of the premises contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Mark R. Josselyn,

Present holder of said

mortgage

05/20, 05/27, 06/03/2021

Town of Middlefield

The Town of Middlefield is seeking bids to supply propane gas, and related repairs as needed, to three buildings in town for Fiscal year 2022.

Bids are to include all delivery charges and taxes.

Bidders must submit proof of insurance when submitting bids.

To obtain annual usage, please contact the

Selectboard at: 413-623-2079

or selectboard@middlefield-ma.net.

Bids must be clearly marked: "Propane Bids"

and received by **6:30 p.m.**

05/20, 05/27, 06/03/2021

on June 16, 2021. Bids will be opened at 6:45 p.m., June 16, 2021. The Selectboard has to right to reject any or all bids. Bids may be emailed or mailed to: Selectboard, P.O. Box 238, Middlefield, MA 01243.

05/20, 05/27/2021

PUBLIC HEARING SELECTBOARD

WESTHAMPTON, MA 01027 MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2021, 6:30 P.M.

The Selectboard will hold a public hearing on the conditions of issuing a Farmer/Brewery License to Bradford and Jeffrey Morse to sell malt and wine beverages for consumption at Outlook Farm, 136 Main Road, Westhampton, MA 01027.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81464741492?pwd=T25qSEkvZEUXZGcvV1FzbEprRVRQdz09>

Call In Option: 1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 814 6474 1492

Passcode: 492192

05/27/2021

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Memorial Day,

PUBLIC NOTICES

EARLY AD DEADLINE

Place your public notice no later than NOON

Friday, May 28

— Thank you!

Classifieds

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MISCELLANEOUS

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STOP STRUGGLING ON THE STAIRS. Give your life a lift with an ACORN STAIRLIFT! Call now for \$250. OFF your stairlift purchase and FREE DVD & brochure! **1-844-325-8610**

TAG SALE

FUNDRAISER/ TAG SALE to benefit multiple organizations. May 29th, 9am. **Route 9 Williamsburg**.

WANTED

OLD CARPENTER TOOLS wanted. Planes, chisels, axes, etc. Vintage hunting, camping, cast iron cookware. Covid guidelines followed. Call Ken **(413)433-2195**.

WANTED TO BUY

COMIC BOOKS WANTED! Comics, Comic Artwork, Vintage Toys, Pulps, Mags! 50+ years of experience! **Gary Dolgoff 413-529-0326** gary@gdcomics.com

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BELCHERTOWN, MA

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DELREO HOME IMPROVEMENT for all your exterior home improvement needs. ROOFING, SIDING, WINDOWS, DOORS, DECKS & GUTTERS. Extensive references available, Fully Licensed & Insured in MA. & CT. Call GARY DELCAMP @ **413-569-3733**

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HORSEBACK RIDING LESSONS offered year round at our state of the art facility. Beginner to advanced. Ages 4 years to adult. Boarding, Sales and Leasing also available. Convenient location at Orion Farm in South Hadley **(413)532-9753** www.orionfarm.net

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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

VACATION RENTALS

WARM WEATHER IS Year Round In Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-Bedroom weeks available. Sleeps 8. Email: carolaction@aol.com for more information.

FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and/or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call the Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Memorial Day, the Classifieds have an **EARLY AD DEADLINE**.

To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON**

Friday, May 28

Thank you!

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DEADLINES:

HILLTOWNS – **MONDAY AT NOON**
QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – **FRIDAY AT NOON**

CATEGORY:	1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31	32
	33	34	35	36
	37	38	39	40

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Buy the Hilltowns ZONE for \$9.50 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

Add \$10 for a second Zone or add \$15 to run in ALL THREE ZONES.

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Includes additional words
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Subtotal _____
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TOTAL Enclosed _____

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

BECKET

Fundraiser to support church beetle repairs

BECKET — To help raise funds to deal with the powder post beetle damage, The First Congregational Church in Becket is holding a to-go meal on Memorial Day weekend. There will be turkey salad with cranberries, potato salad with egg, four bean salad, and homemade pineapple upside down cake. The meal will cost \$12 for adults and \$6 for those under 12. There will be Summer Salads and homemade pineapple upside down cake on Saturday, May 29, as well. Reservations are required; call 413-623-8300 to leave a message for how many meals are needed. Pick up time is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Guild Hall on YMCA Road in Becket. This to go meal will help support the First Congregational Church in Becket in its efforts to repair the belfry and floor timbers damaged by the beetles.



Russ LaPierre examines the remains of old machinery and equipment from the Mitchell Pink Granite Quarry in Becket on the Chester Becket Railroad.

Submitted photos

Jacob's Pillow presents Global Pillow: A Virtual Gala on Saturday, June 12

BECKET — Jacob's Pillow announced its annual Festival season kickoff Gala, Global Pillow, which will be accessible this year in a virtual format on Saturday, June 12, at 7 p.m.

Featuring new work and sneak peaks at work-in-progress from leading performers around the world, highlighted companies include Black Grace (New Zealand), Germaine Acogny (Senegal), Nederlands Dans Theater (Netherlands), Candoco Dance Company (U.K.), Companhia Urbana de Dança (Brazil), Hong Kong Ballet (Hong Kong), Nrityagram Dance Ensemble (India), and Paris Opera Ballet (France).

Global Pillow will also highlight the recipient of the 2021 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award, who will premiere a new work at the event; this year's recipient will be

announced in early June. The Gala marks an opportunity to connect with companies we haven't had an opportunity to see during the pandemic for an evening of dance.

The Gala also presents an important fundraising opportunity for Jacob's Pillow after the economic impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic and as it prepares for a socially distant outdoor Festival this summer. A portion of the proceeds will also benefit the educational programs of a regional indigenous arts center and provide funds for dance artists in the region. The night will end with a post-event virtual dance party.

A portion of the net proceeds of Global Pillow will be donated to support the educational programs of the Ohketeau Cultural Center, a new center

for Indigenous arts and community located in Ashfield, MA serving Central and Western MA and beyond; and the New England Dance Fund of the New England Foundation for the Arts, providing much-needed funds to dance artists in the region.

For 89 years, Jacob's Pillow has been an international crossroads for dancers and those who love dance. After canceling the Festival in 2020 for the first time in the Pillow's history, and then losing the beloved Doris Duke Theatre in a fire in November, Jacob's Pillow has worked this past year to keep the dance community around the world engaged and connected, showcasing new and innovative virtual programs and offerings.

The 2021 Dance Festival will be the first multi-platform Festival offered by the

Pillow, incorporating both on-site and virtual performances. There will also be performances including AR and VR technology as well as roving performances through the Pillow's 220-acre site. In addition, there will be several performances staged outside in towns around Berkshire County.

Global Pillow is a free online event and will be available on demand for one week after the June 12 premiere. Special pre-show packages, including a zoom visit with a dance artist and many other benefits, are also available at \$5,000 and \$10,000 and can be purchased by contacting Ina Clark, Jacob's Pillow Director of Philanthropy, at iclarck@jacobspillow.org.

RSVP is required. A direct link will be sent to those who RSVPed via email on the day of the event. RSVP at www.jacobspillow.org/events/global-pillow/.

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